

The Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report *Contra Costa and Solano Counties*



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Welcome and Introductions

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Presentation Overview

- Background on Delta Trail Concept
- Process on Developing a Blueprint Report
- Future Steps and Opportunities for Implementation

Vision for a Delta Trail

- * The California Delta is currently inaccessible except by boat, or in some cases, by car.
- * Delta Protection Commission (DPC) surveys over the past decade have shown there are many unmet recreational needs for the Delta.
- * The idea was to connect people with the Delta and help create healthy connected communities.

Senate Bill 1556 (2006)

- * The regional trail concept was born out of Senator Tom Torlakson's Senate Bill (SB) 1556
- * SB 1556 directed DPC to facilitate the planning and feasibility process for the establishment of The Great California Delta Trail in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Senate Bill 1556 (2006)

- * The goal was to link the San Francisco Bay Trail system and the planned Sacramento River trails in Yolo and Sacramento Counties to the present and future trailways around the delta, including, shorelines in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties.
- * The Delta Trail would include trails for hiking and bicycling, facilities for wildlife observation and education, water trails and water sports access, fishing areas, and access to historic and cultural sites with interpretive information.

Blueprint Concept

What is The Great California Delta Trail planning process?

- Create Blueprint Report for how the trail will be planned in Contra Costa and Solano Counties.
- The Report will be followed by more detailed planning in these counties, and Blueprint studies in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties.
- The Great California Delta Trail will be based on the preferences and plans of the counties, cities, and communities.



Why a Blueprint?

- Set the foundation for master plans and developing alignments
- Five counties – diverse interests and needs
- Bring stakeholders into the process early
- Establish high level vision
- Identify opportunities and challenges early in the process
- Develop an action plan



Blueprint Report Outline

1. Introduction
2. Vision and Goals
3. Setting
4. Technical Issues
5. Best Practices
6. Policy Review
7. Action Plan
8. Outreach & Engagement
9. Potential Trail Concepts
10. Funding Opportunities



Delta Trail Blueprint Process

Outreach

- Identify stakeholders in each county (property owners, agriculture, local/regional government)
- Identify technical advisors (staff with knowledge of area and of trails)



Who were the Delta Trail Advisory Committee Members?

- Association of Bay Area Governments
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California Department of Boating and Waterways
- California Department of Fish & Game
- California State Grange
- State Parks
- State Lands Commission
- City of Brentwood
- City of Dixon
- City of Pittsburg
- City of Rio Vista
- Contra Costa County
- Contra Costa Water District
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- East Bay Regional Parks
- Solano County Farm Bureau
- Army Corps of Engineers



Who were the Delta Trail Advisory Committee Members?

- Ambrose Recreation and Park District
- Contra Costa County Dept of Agriculture
- East Bay Bicycle Coalition
- Muir Heritage Land Trust
- Native Plant Society
- Recreational Boaters of CA
- Solano County Agriculture Department
- Wilson Vineyards
- Hart Restoration



Delta Trail Blueprint Process

- Identify vision and goals
- Identify technical issues
- Identify best practices
- Develop outreach strategy



Vision

The Delta Trail will be an interconnected regional network of trails fostering a physical and visual connection to the Delta.

The network will support:

1. Recreation and tourism
2. Safer access for bicyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities
3. Healthier lifestyles
4. Appreciation of the heritage, natural and agriculture resources of the Delta

The Delta Trail will provide a unifying regional identity while celebrating unique qualities of the Delta Region.



Goals

- Community Benefits
- Outreach and Engagement
- Connections to Regional and Local Destinations
- Compatibility with Existing Land Uses
- Equitable Access
- Education and Encouragement
- Partnerships and Momentum
- Environmental Stewardship
- Quality Design and Implementation
- Adequate Funding
- Quality Maintenance and Operations



Technical Issues

- Public safety and liability
- Private property impacts & liability
- Property access & land use conflicts
- Agricultural resources
- Levee integrity and maintenance
- Water quality
- Environmental resources
- Funding
- Trail design



Issue Highlight: Agricultural Resources

- Impacts on farm operations
- Theft or vandalism
- Loss of farm land
- Liability: spraying and trespassing
- Spread of invasive species



Bring in Agricultural community at the start of the process!



Best Practices

- American River Parkway, Sacramento, CA
- Bay Area Ridge Trail, SF Bay Area, CA
- California Coastal Trail, CA Coast, CA
- Carolina Thread Trail, North and South Carolina
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties, CA
- Santa Paula Branch Line Recreational Trail, Ventura County, CA
- San Francisco Bay Trail, SF Bay Area, CA



Best Practices

- Planning and Policy Documents
- Oversight Body
- Advisory Committees
- Public Outreach
- Goals and Policies
- Administration, Planning & Operation
- Trail Design



Action Plan

- Administration and Coordination
 - Project leadership –DPC role
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - County Committees
 - Delta Trail Staff



Action Plan

- Planning and Implementation
 - Public Outreach and Engagement
 - Complete Blueprint for Remaining 3 Counties
 - Delta Trail Master Plan
 - Regional Collaboration
 - Input on Local Plans and Projects
 - Funding Advice and Assistance
 - Technical and Background Information Clearing house



Next Steps...

...Seek Adoption by County Board of Supervisors



Next Steps...

...Develop Blueprint Report for remaining Delta Counties



Yolo County



Sacramento County



San Joaquin County

Next Steps...

...Action Plan/Master Plan



Existing and Proposed Links



Challenges Trails and Levees

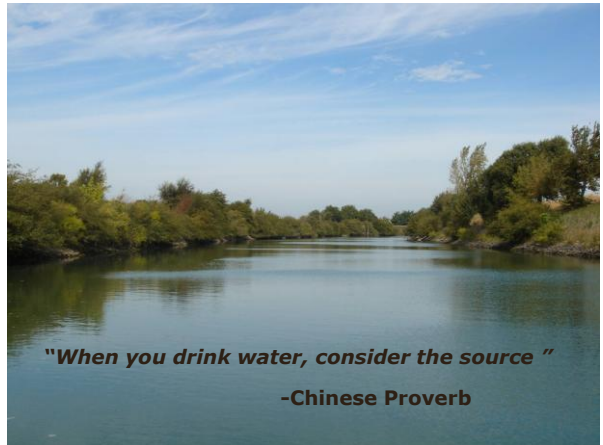
Perspective looking East



Challenges Trails and Water Quality



"When you drink water, consider the source"
-Chinese Proverb



Opportunities?

- Economic Sustainability Plan
- State Parks Recreation Plan
- Agritourism Workshops
- Delta National Heritage Area Study



Agritourism and Farm Trails



The Great Delta Trail and the Delta National Heritage Area



Developing the Great Delta Trail presents challenges due to the large geographical scale and the diversity of interest groups. For it to truly be sustainable, citizens must feel a sense of ownership, so that they can serve as trail stewards. The Blueprint Report provided an early opportunity to cultivate stakeholder involvement on smaller, local levels and build a foundation for further master planning and successful implementation.

Thank You!

- California Coastal Conservancy
- Contra Costa County
- National Park Service
- California Trails and Greenways Conference

